



Warm-Up

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Lincoln Memorial

The Lincoln Memorial is located on the National Mall. The Mall is in the heart of the nation's capitol in Washington, D.C. The exterior of this beautiful monument is made of white Colorado marble. It has thirty-six columns. They surround a central block. They stand for the thirty-six states that made up the United States at the time of Lincoln's death. The name of each of these states and its date of admission to the Union are **inscribed** at the top of the Lincoln Memorial.

There is a huge white marble statue of Abraham Lincoln. It sits on an armchair inside the chamber. It is nineteen feet high. American sculptor Daniel Chester French carved it. The statue was dedicated in 1922.

The text of the Gettysburg Address is engraved on a stone tablet. It is in the south chamber of the Lincoln Memorial. Lincoln's second inaugural address is engraved in the north chamber. Above Lincoln's head is this inscription: "In this temple, as in the hearts of the people for whom he saved the Union, the memory of Abraham Lincoln is enshrined forever."

The Lincoln Memorial is open day and night. Many people enjoy viewing it at dusk. At that time, some people say that the light makes it look as though Lincoln is watching over the nation he once loved.

## Check Your Understanding

- From the context of the passage, what is the meaning of **inscribed**?
  - scribbled in ink
  - written or engraved on a surface
  - a kind of marble
  - a stone column
- What was Daniel Chester French's occupation?
  - architect
  - president
  - sculptor
  - painter
- Why were the Gettysburg Address and the second inaugural address inscribed on the memorial?
  - There were no other copies of the documents.
  - They were written about Lincoln.
  - They needed to fill up space.
  - They were Lincoln's most famous speeches.
- Which of the following facts would *not* be relevant to the passage about the Lincoln Memorial?
  - Lincoln helped preserve the Union.
  - Lincoln's speeches inspired Americans.
  - The president of the Confederacy was Jefferson Davis.
  - The Lincoln Memorial is made of marble.



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Warm-Up

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Washington Monument

The Washington Monument was built to honor George Washington. He was America's first president. Its construction was discussed even before his death. Designers and public leaders proposed different designs. They helped to raise money, too. However, lack of funds and design arguments halted work on it several times. The cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1848. Construction took thirty-seven years to complete. The monument was dedicated in 1885. This was almost ninety years after Washington's death.

The monument is an obelisk. The shaft of white marble slowly tapers to a point. That's why the walls are fifteen feet thick at the base and just eighteen inches thick at the top. Its top is shaped like a pyramid.

The monument's white marble blocks came from **quarries** in Maryland and Massachusetts. They are held together with a cement-like mortar. There is no metal reinforcement. The monument weighs 90,854 tons. That's as much as 60,000 cars! The Washington Monument is the world's tallest masonry structure (stone and mortar). It is the tallest structure in the nation's capital. It will remain that way. It is against the law to build anything taller.

Eight small windows are located at the 500-foot-level. There are two windows on each side. They offer a beautiful view of the city. An elevator gives visitors a fast ride to the top.

### Check Your Understanding

- From the context of the passage, what are **quarries**?
  - places where wine is stored
  - places where wood is kept
  - places where stone is dug out of the ground
  - places where railroad cars are kept
- What material holds the marble blocks in place?
  - steel
  - bricks
  - nothing
  - mortar
- From the context of the passage, what natural event might pose the most danger to the Washington Monument?
  - floods
  - blizzards
  - long periods of heat
  - earthquakes
- Which word describes the shape of the monument as a towering shaft of white marble?
  - obelisk
  - quarry
  - pyramid
  - cylinder



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